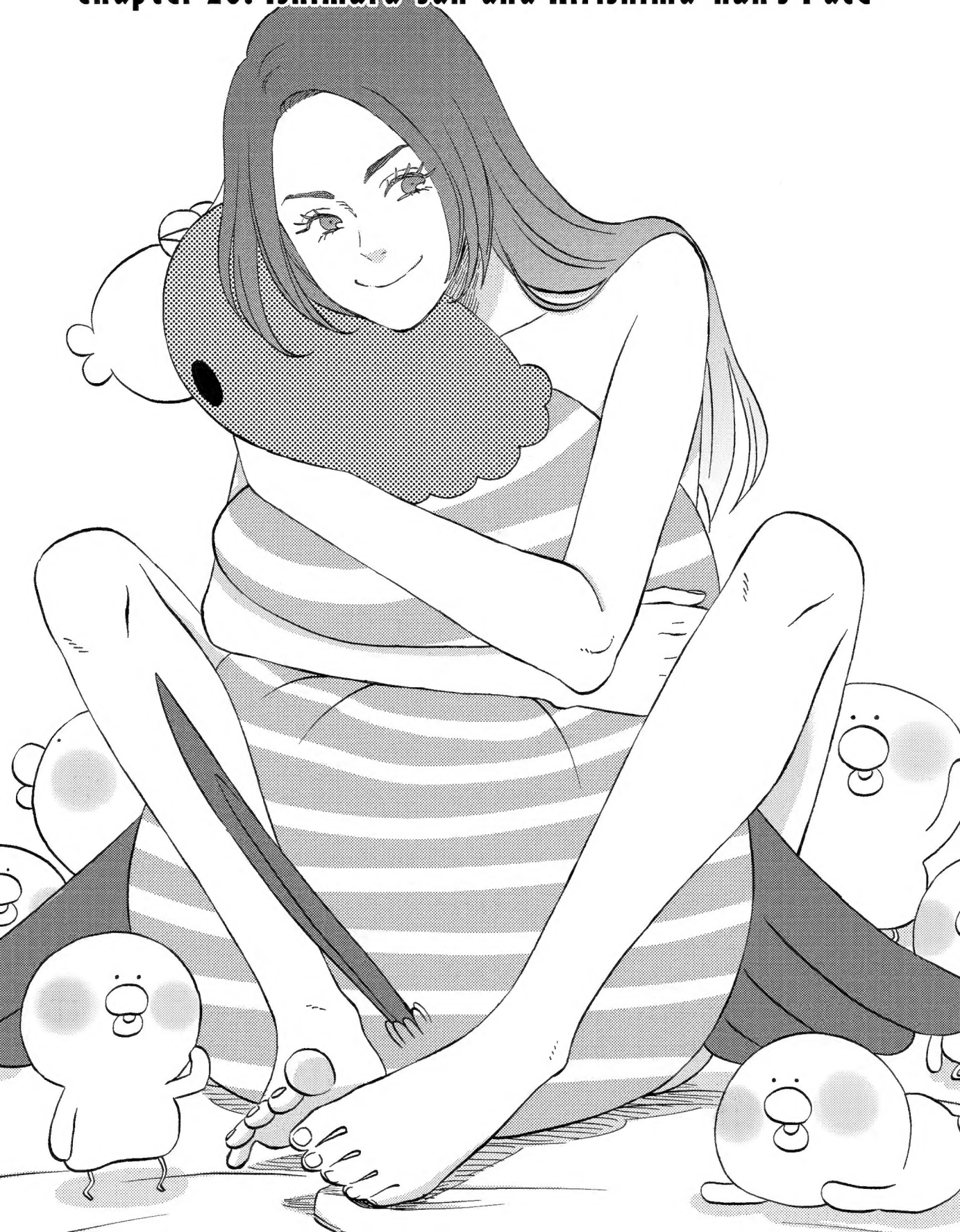
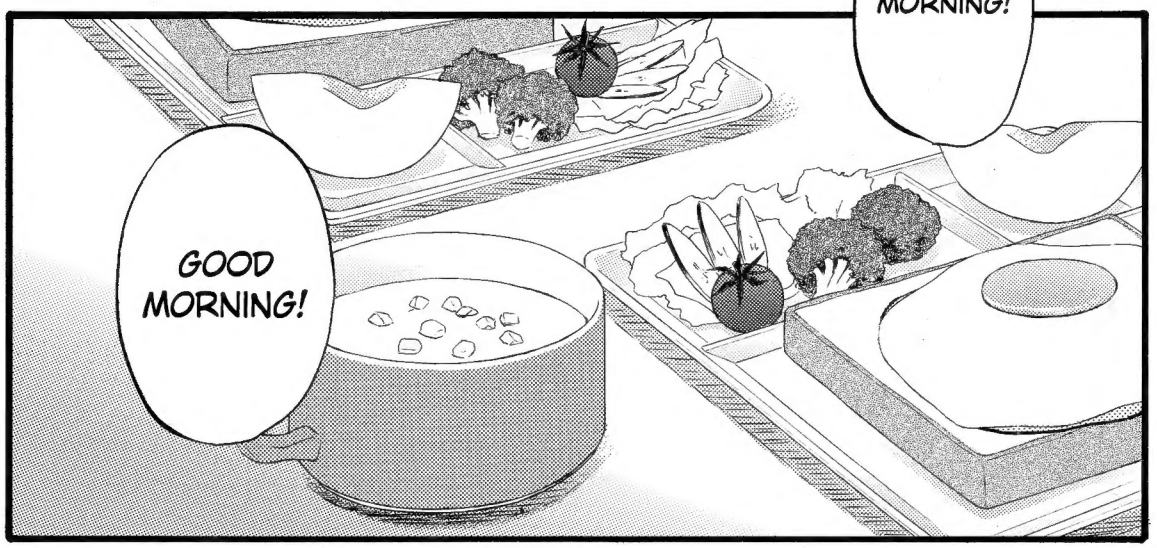
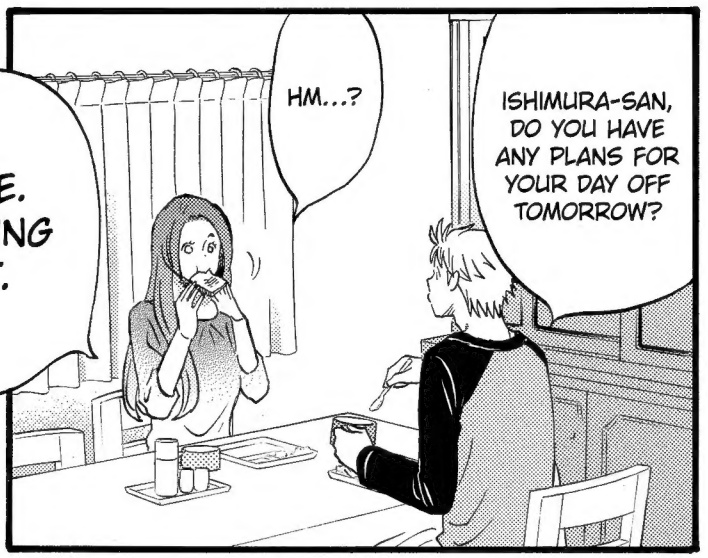
Chapter 26: Ishimura-san and Kirishima-kun's Pace



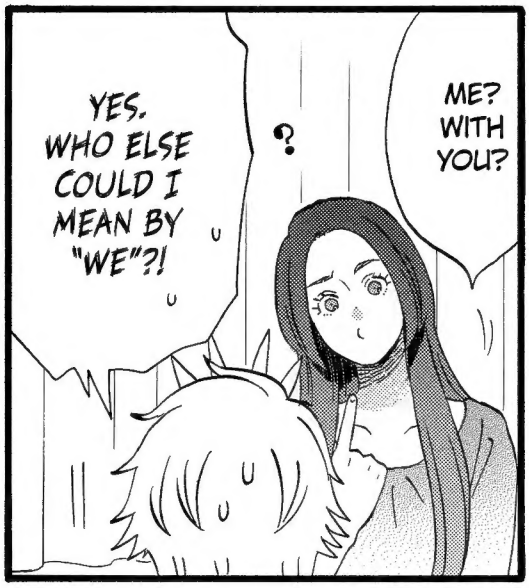
Chirp
Chirp

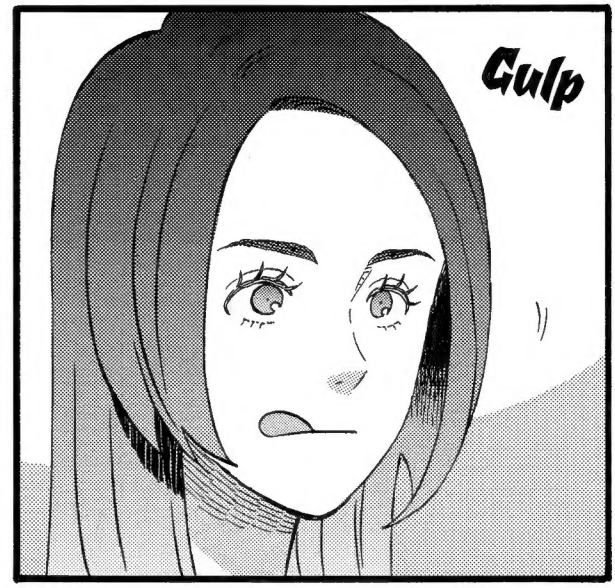

MORNING!
GOOD MORNING!

NOPE. NOTHING YET.

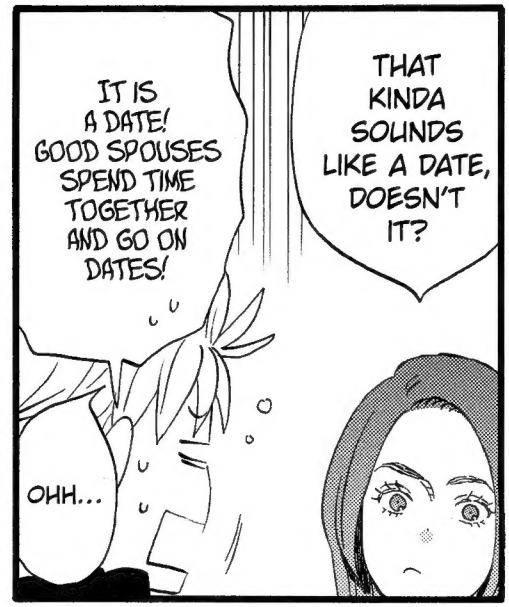

HM...?
ISHIMURA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS FOR YOUR DAY OFF TOMORROW?

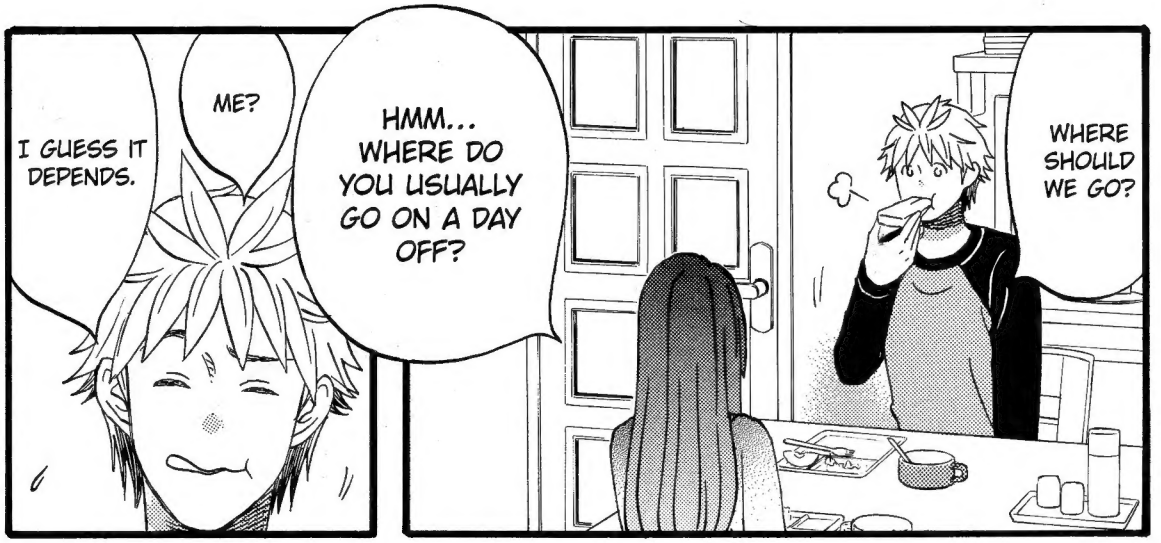
THEN, HOW ABOUT WE GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?
Munch
...
Munch


ME? WITH YOU?
?
YES. WHO ELSE COULD I MEAN BY "WE"?!

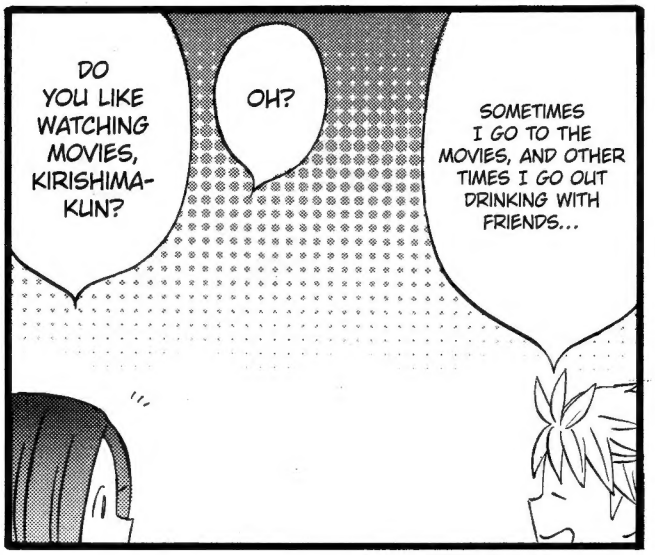

Gulp

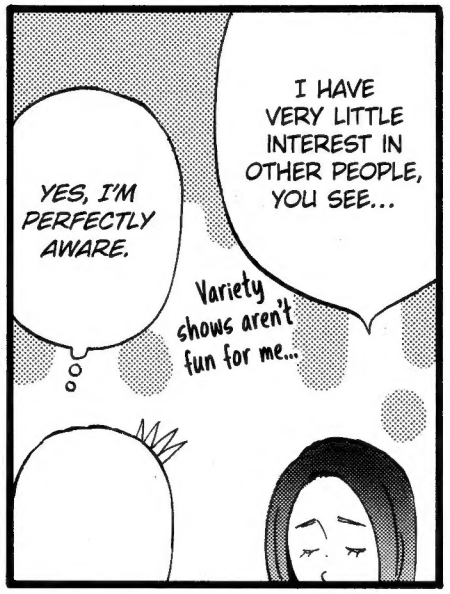
I SEE. ALL RIGHT, THEN.
LET'S HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TIME TOGETHER.
I DON'T THINK GOOD SPOUSES HAVE SUCH AWKWARD CONVERSATIONS...

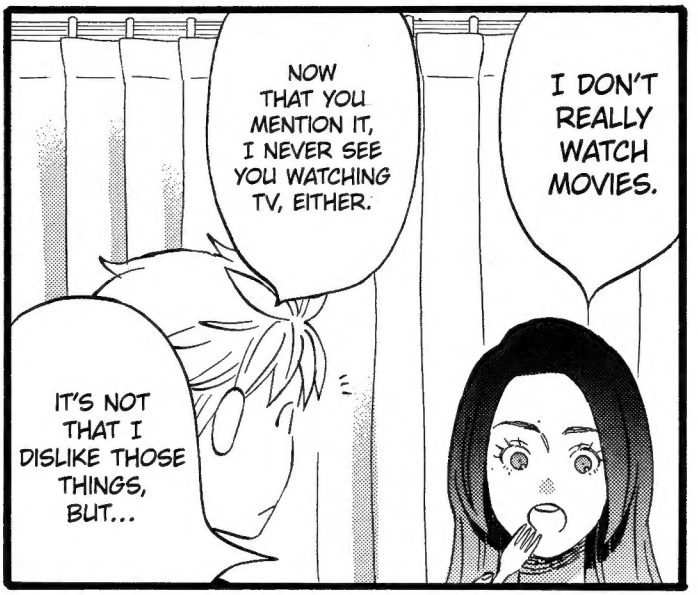

THAT KINDA SOUNDS LIKE A DATE, DOESN'T IT?
IT IS A DATE! GOOD SPOUSES SPEND TIME TOGETHER AND GO ON DATES!
OHH...

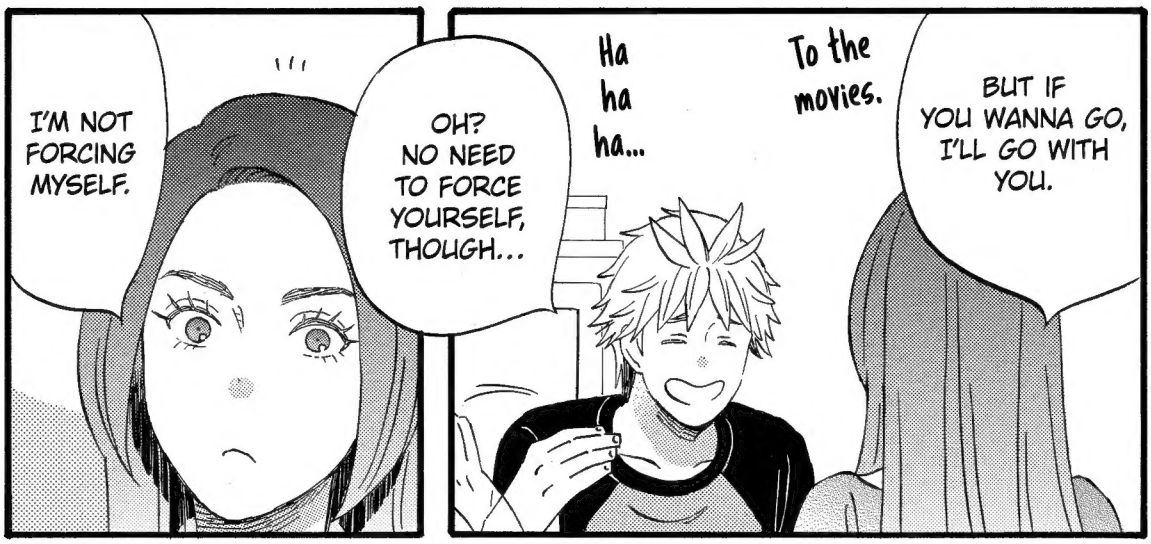

WHERE SHOULD WE GO?
HMM... WHERE DO YOU USUALLY GO ON A DAY OFF?
ME?
I GUESS IT DEPENDS.

HM... I USUALLY WATCH THE POPULAR ONES.
BUT I WOULDN'T CALL MYSELF A HUGE MOVIEGOER.


SOMETIMES I GO TO THE MOVIES, AND OTHER TIMES I GO OUT DRINKING WITH FRIENDS...
OH?
DO YOU LIKE WATCHING MOVIES, KIRISHIMA-KUN?

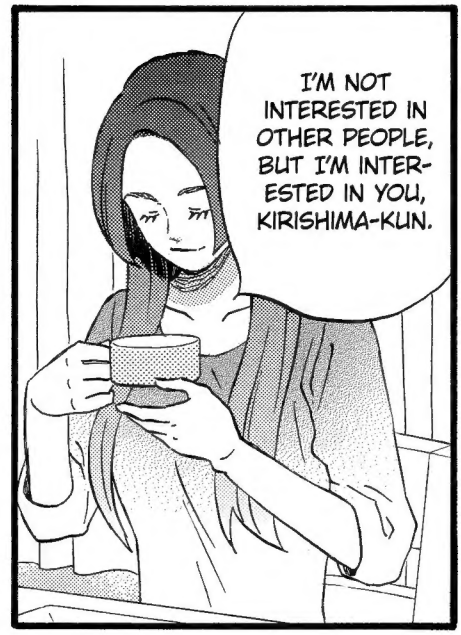

I HAVE VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE, YOU SEE...
Variety shows aren't fun for me...
YES, I'M PERFECTLY AWARE.

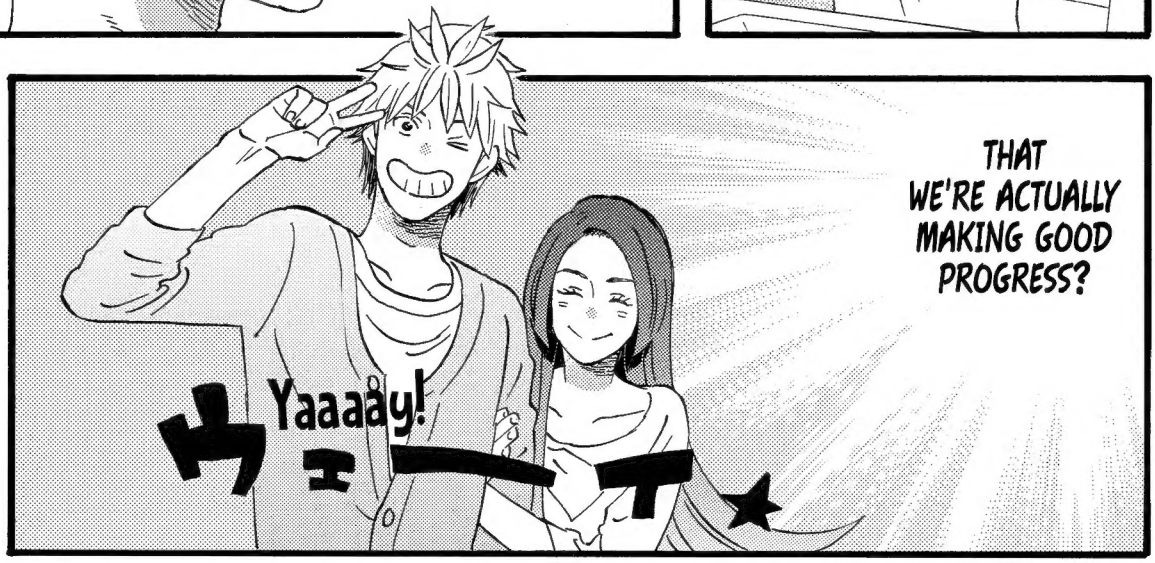

I DON'T REALLY WATCH MOVIES.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I NEVER SEE YOU WATCHING TV, EITHER.
IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE THOSE THINGS, BUT...


I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF.
OH? NO NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF, THOUGH...

Ha ha ha...
To the movies.
BUT IF YOU WANNA GO, I'LL GO WITH YOU.

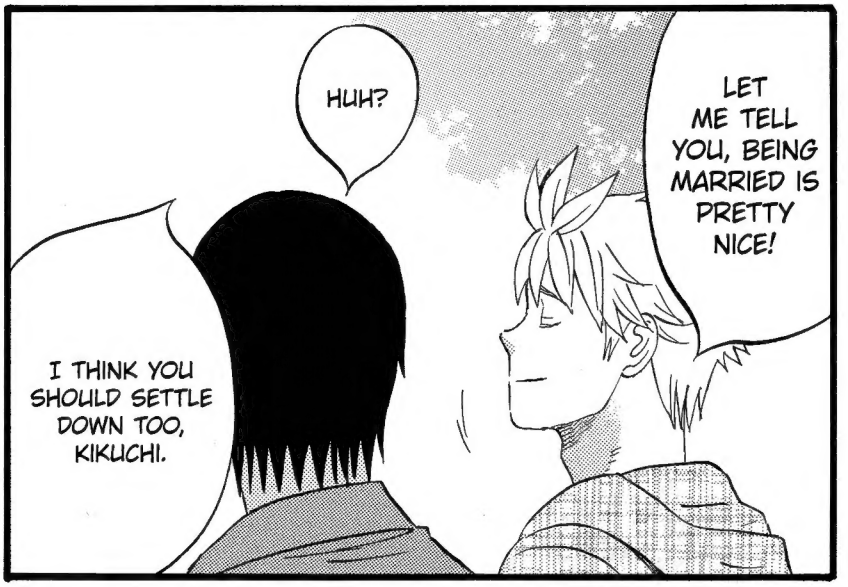
COULD IT BE...
...
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF THINGS YOU LIKE.

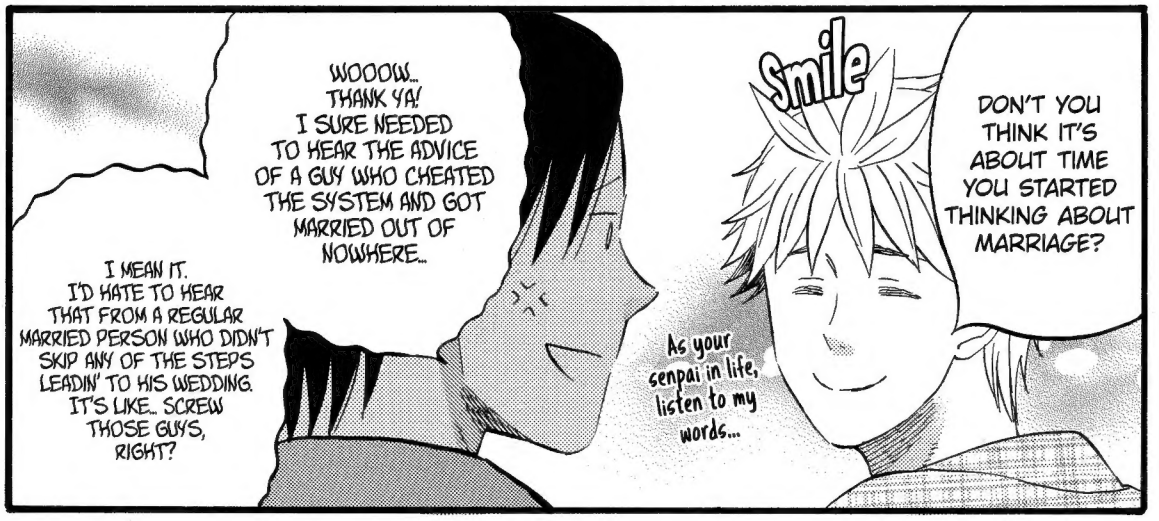

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I'M INTERESTED IN YOU, KIRISHIMA-KUN.


THAT WE'RE ACTUALLY MAKING GOOD PROGRESS?
Yaaaay!
ウェーイ

Tee-hee...
OHH? IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GOIN' PRETTY WELL, MAN.
I KNOW, RIIIIGHT?!

Pat


LET ME TELL YOU, BEING MARRIED IS PRETTY NICE!
HUH?
I THINK YOU SHOULD SETTLE DOWN TOO, KIKUCHI.


Smile
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU STARTED THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE?
As your senpai in life, listen to my words...
WOOOW... THANK YA! I SURE NEEDED TO HEAR THE ADVICE OF A GUY WHO CHEATED THE SYSTEM AND GOT MARRIED OUT OF NOWHERE...
I MEAN IT. I'D HATE TO HEAR THAT FROM A REGULAR MARRIED PERSON WHO DIDN'T SKIP ANY OF THE STEPS LEADIN' TO HIS WEDDING. IT'S LIKE... SCREW THOSE GUYS, RIGHT?

I BET YOUR SEX LIFE MUST BE GOIN' DARN WELL, TOO.

Tch...!

...IT IS, AIN'T IT?

...

TURN...

HUH?

...

HM...?

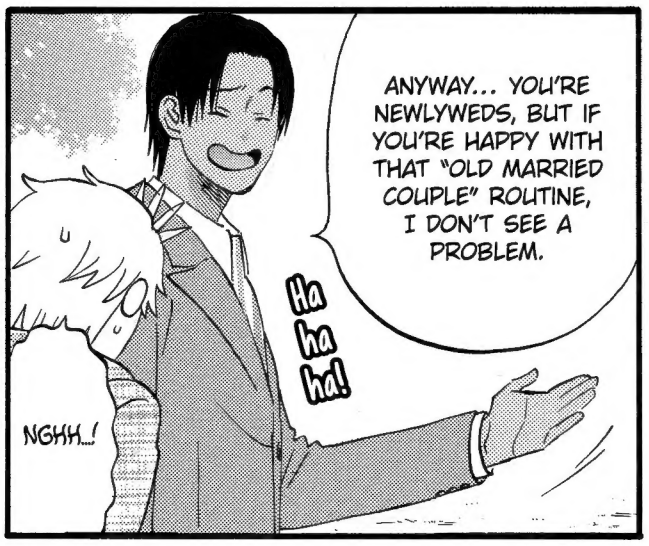
HUH?

I FEEL LIKE I KINDA MISSED THE RIGHT TIMING, YOU KNOW...?

FOR REAL?! WOW...

WELL... WHAT CAN I SAY? IT'S DIFFICULT TO BRING UP THAT TOPIC THIS LATE IN THE GAME...

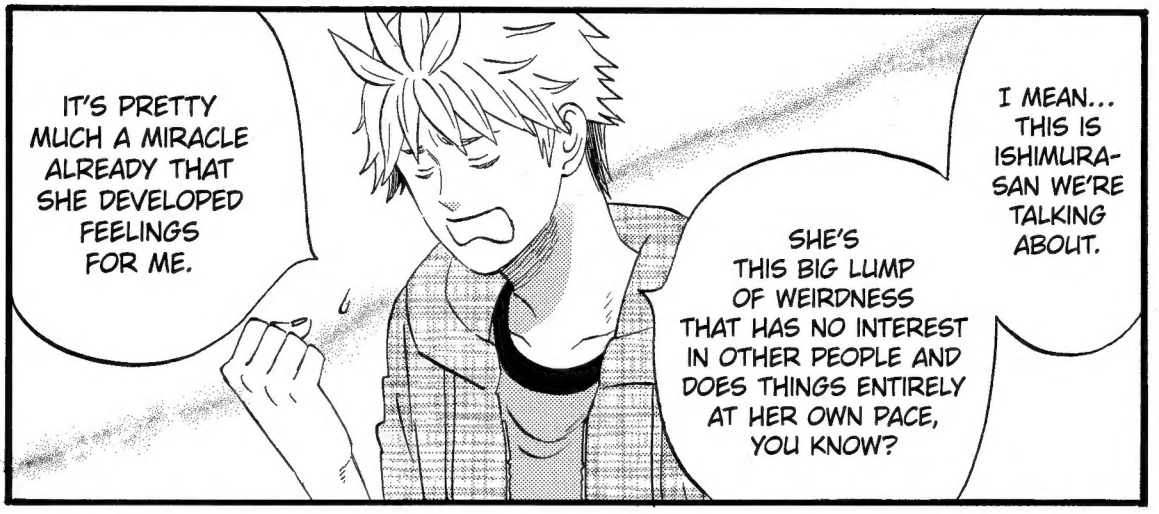
...WHAT THE HECK?

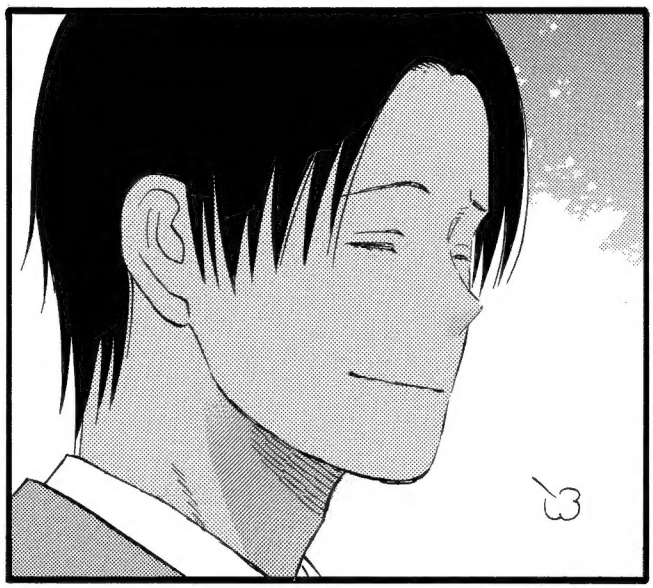

ANYWAY... YOU'RE NEWLYWEDS, BUT IF YOU'RE HAPPY WITH THAT "OLD MARRIED COUPLE" ROUTINE, I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM.
Ha ha ha!
NGHH...!

UGHH ...!
What the heeeeck?!
THAT SURE IS RICH COMING FROM A GUY WHO WAS PREACHIN' JUST NOW ABOUT HOW GREAT BEIN' MARRIED WAS!

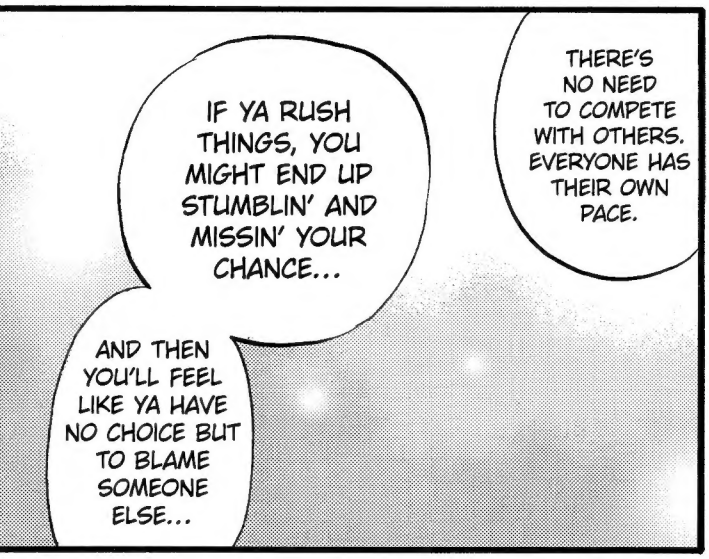
...SO, YEAH. THAT'S HOW IT IS.
WELL, AREN'T YA BEIN' SERIOUS HERE...
That's surprisin'

OF COURSE I'M NOT HAPPY WITH IT!
Yeah, yeah...
I FEEL FOR YA, THEN.

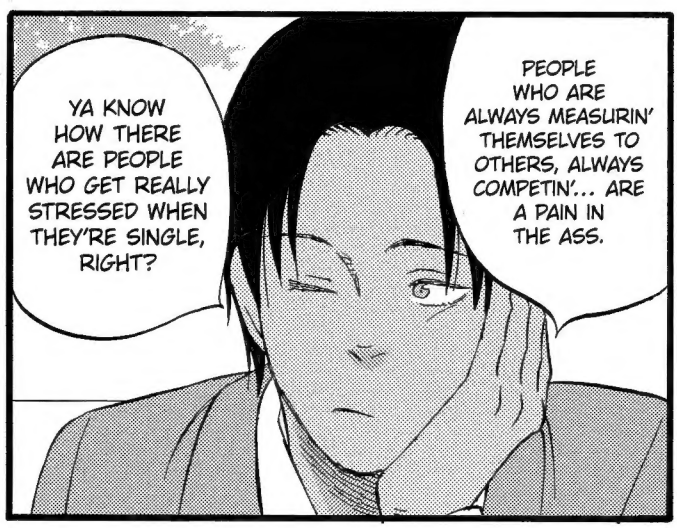

IT'S PRETTY MUCH A MIRACLE ALREADY THAT SHE DEVELOPED FEELINGS FOR ME.
SHE'S THIS BIG LUMP OF WEIRDNESS THAT HAS NO INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE AND DOES THINGS ENTIRELY AT HER OWN PACE, YOU KNOW?
I MEAN... THIS IS ISHIMURA-SAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.



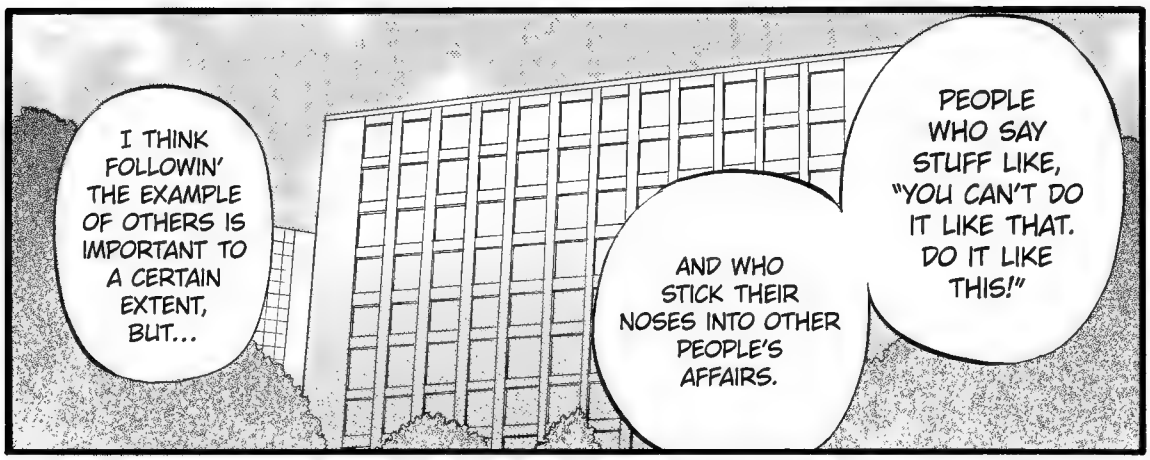
OUR CURRENT SITUATION IS ALREADY AMAZING ENOUGH.
...YA FEELIN' THAT WAY SURE DEMONSTRATES THAT YA BEEN THROUGH A LOT.


THERE'S NO NEED TO COMPETE WITH OTHERS. EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PACE.
IF YA RUSH THINGS, YOU MIGHT END UP STUMBLIN' AND MISSIN' YOUR CHANCE...
AND THEN YOU'LL FEEL LIKE YA HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE...

WELL... LIFE'S LONG, AND YA TWO STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. IT'S FINE TO GO AT HER PACE.


PEOPLE WHO ARE ALWAYS MEASURIN' THEMSELVES TO OTHERS, ALWAYS COMPETIN'... ARE A PAIN IN THE ASS.
YA KNOW HOW THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO GET REALLY STRESSED WHEN THEY'RE SINGLE, RIGHT?

HONESTLY, IT'S A GREAT THING THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS LIKE THAT.
HMM?
I MEAN THAT YA SHOULDN'T WORRY SO MUCH.


I THINK FOLLOWIN' THE EXAMPLE OF OTHERS IS IMPORTANT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, BUT...
AND WHO STICK THEIR NOSES INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS.
PEOPLE WHO SAY STUFF LIKE, "YOU CAN'T DO IT LIKE THAT. DO IT LIKE THIS!"

I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO ADJUST YOUR WAY OF LIFE TO MATCH THEIRS.

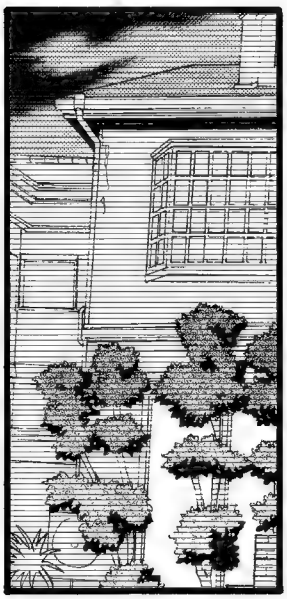
...

YA GUYS MAY BE A WEIRD COUPLE, BUT WEIRD IS FINE.

YA FOLKS ARE INTERESTIN', AND UNLIKE ANY I'VE EVER SEEN.

HONESTLY, I KINDA WISH YOU'D KEEP THAT UP FOREVER...

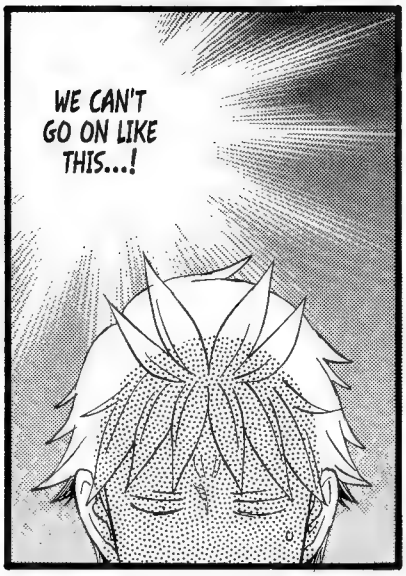
IN OTHER WORDS...



YOU MEAN IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO BE IN A SEXLESS RELATIONSHIP WITH ISHIMURA-SAN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?

HA HA HA! WELL, THIS IS PRETTY AMUSING.

COULD YOU PLEASE NOT GIVE LIFE ADVICE TO SOMEONE BASED ON WHETHER IT'S FUN FOR YOU OR NOT?!



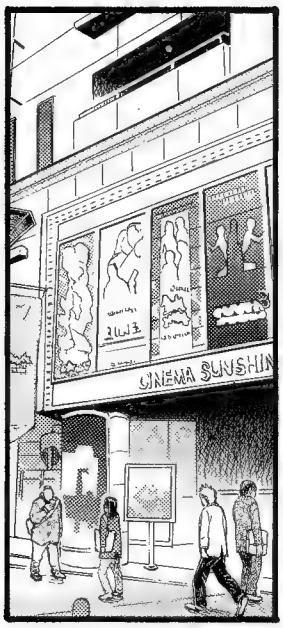
SHIT... THAT KIKUCHI ...

THAT GUY LIVES HIS LIFE BASED ON WHETHER SOMETHING IS ENTERTAINING OR NOT, SO OUR CONVERSATIONS ALWAYS DEVIATE...

I FEEL LIKE HE'S TREATING THE FACT THAT ISHIMURA-SAN AND I ARE A COUPLE AS JOKE MATERIAL.

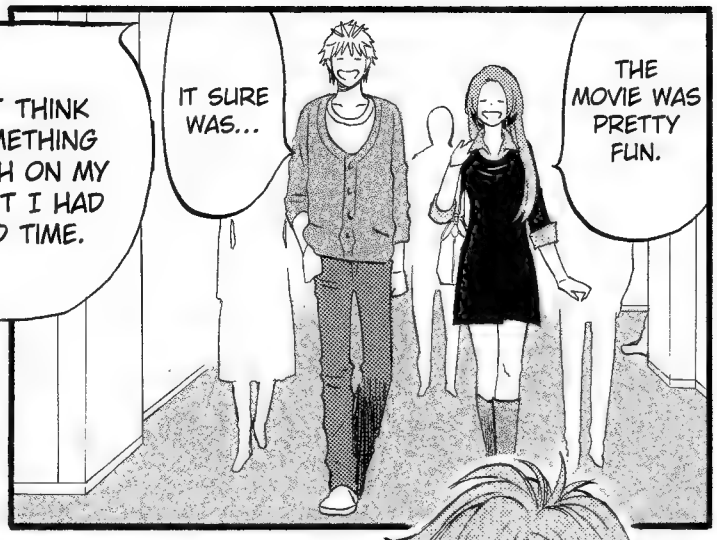
Clack Clack

FUSHA!!


CINEMA SUNSHIN

IF WE WANT TO BECOME A GOOD, GENUINE COUPLE, WE SHOULD TAKE A STEP FORWARD IN THAT DIRECTION...
THAT'S RIGHT... BEING AN "ENTERTAINING" COUPLE ISN'T GOOD!

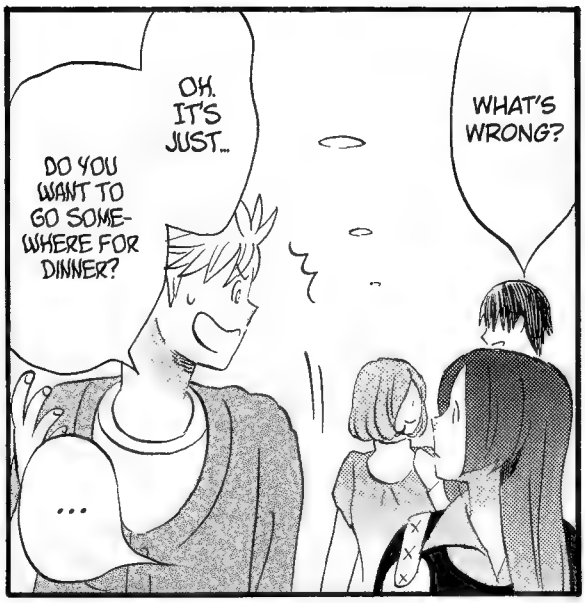
HA HA HA! I'LL INVITE YOU AGAIN, THEN.
I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING I'D WATCH ON MY OWN, BUT I HAD A GOOD TIME.
!


IT SURE WAS...
THE MOVIE WAS PRETTY FUN.

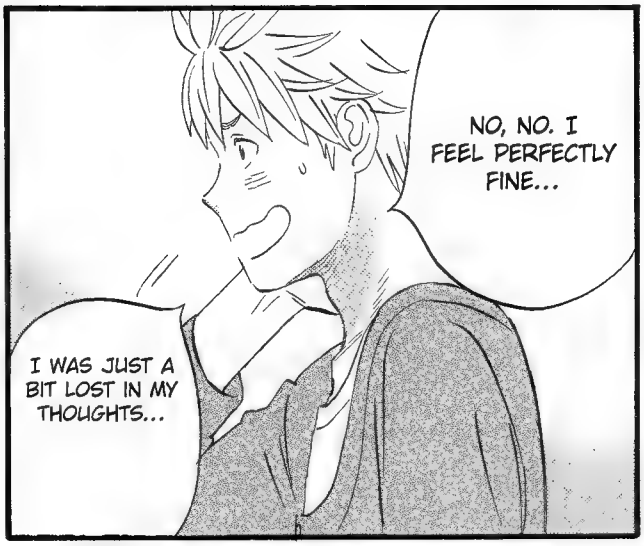
...

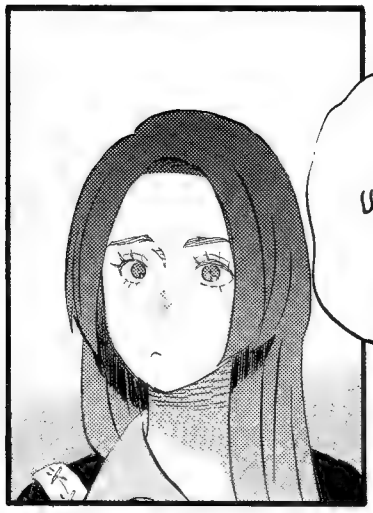
Heh heh heh...
Ha ha ha!

YOU'RE A LITTLE DISTRACTED TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
WE SHOULD GO HOME IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.
HUH?

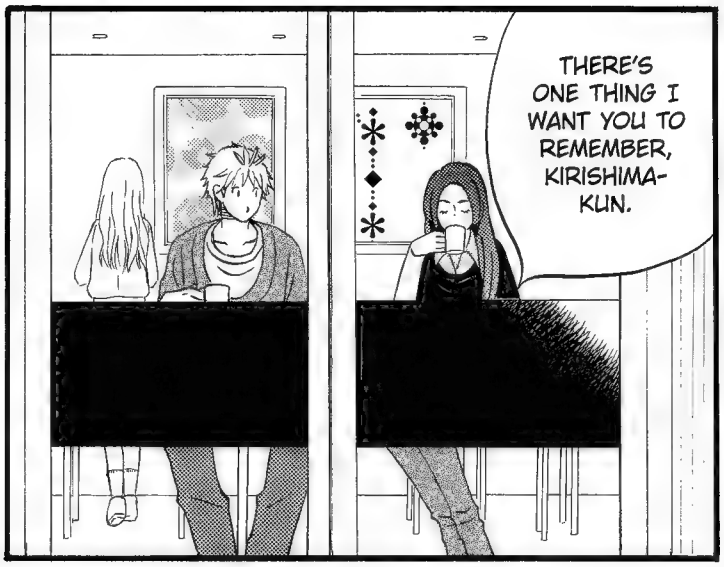

WHAT'S WRONG?
OH. IT'S JUST...
DO YOU WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE FOR DINNER?
...

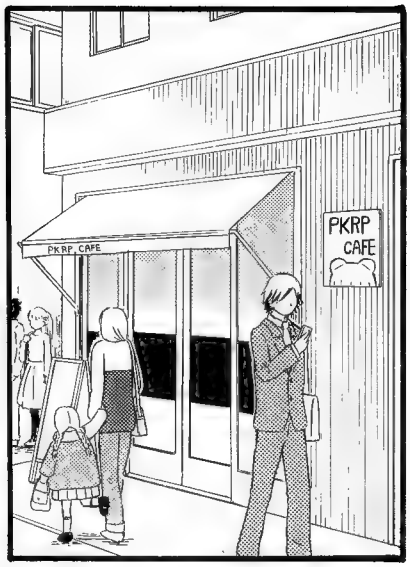
YOU SEE, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO REQUEST...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE

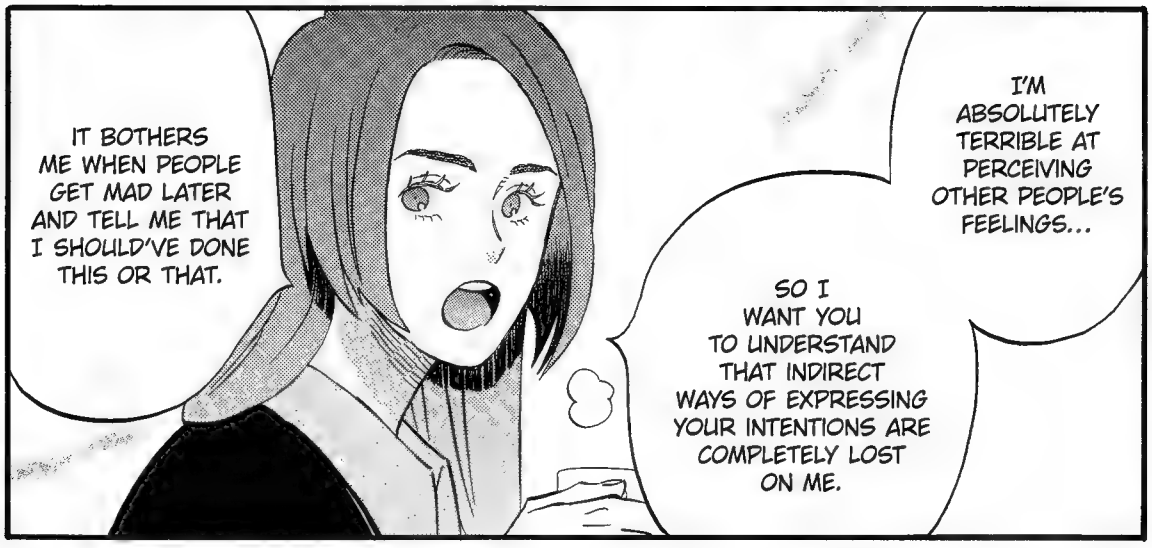

NO, NO. I FEEL PERFECTLY FINE...
I WAS JUST A BIT LOST IN MY THOUGHTS...

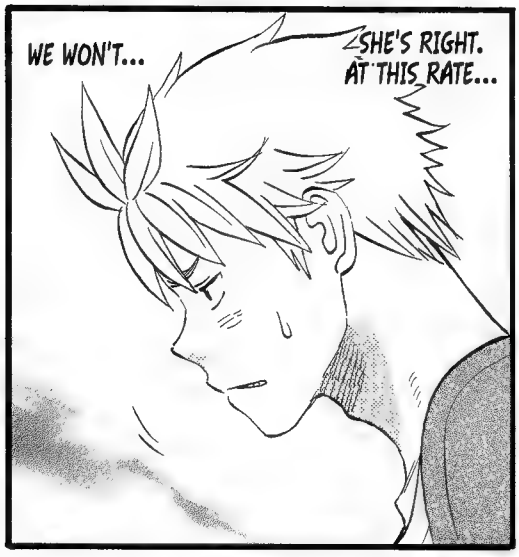

UM...

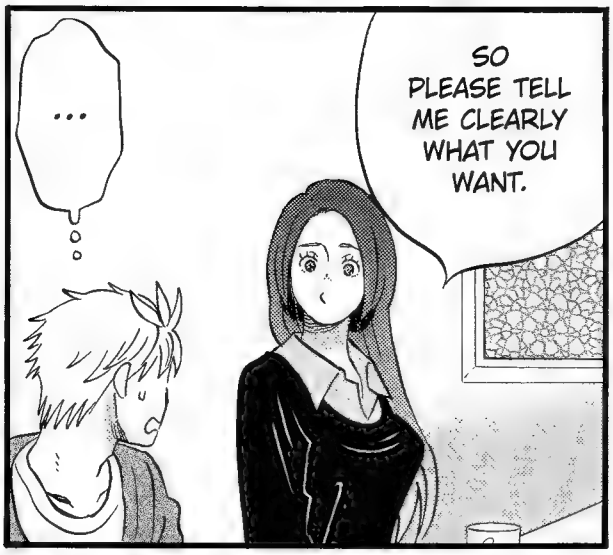
A REQUEST? WHAT IS IT?
...OHH, BUT...
IT'S ACTUALLY A BIT HARD TO SAY...


THERE'S ONE THING I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER, KIRISHIMA-KUN.

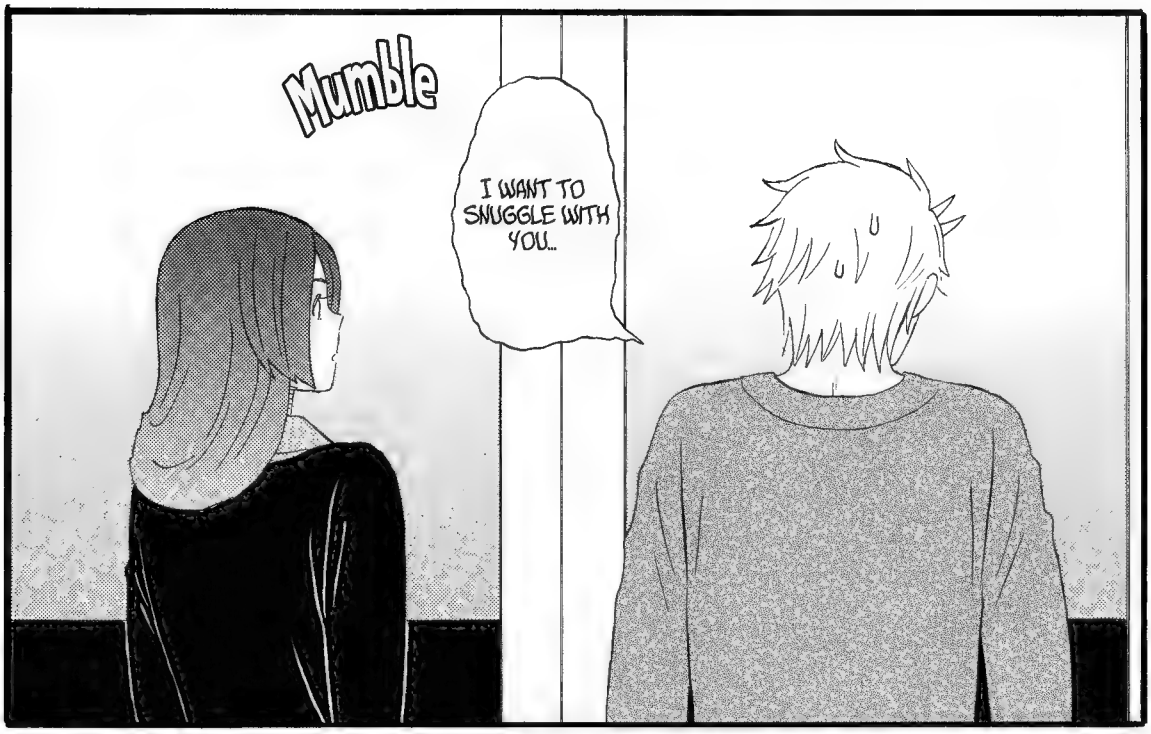

PKRP CAFE
PKRP CAFE

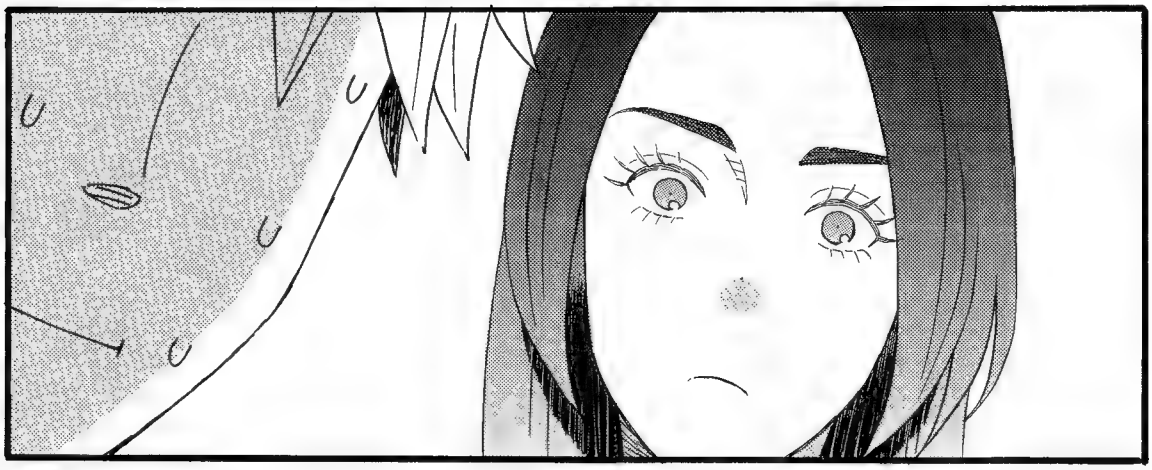

IT BOTHERS ME WHEN PEOPLE GET MAD LATER AND TELL ME THAT I SHOULD'VE DONE THIS OR THAT.
I'M ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE AT PERCEIVING OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS...
SO I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT INDIRECT WAYS OF EXPRESSING YOUR INTENTIONS ARE COMPLETELY LOST ON ME.

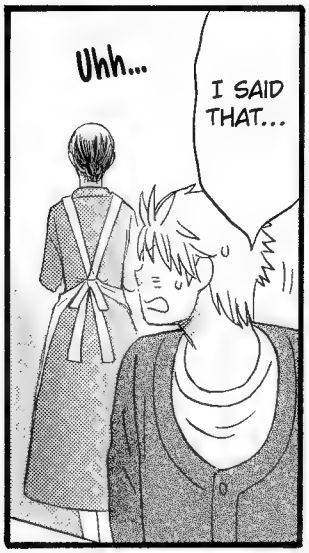

WE WON'T...
SHE'S RIGHT. AT THIS RATE...

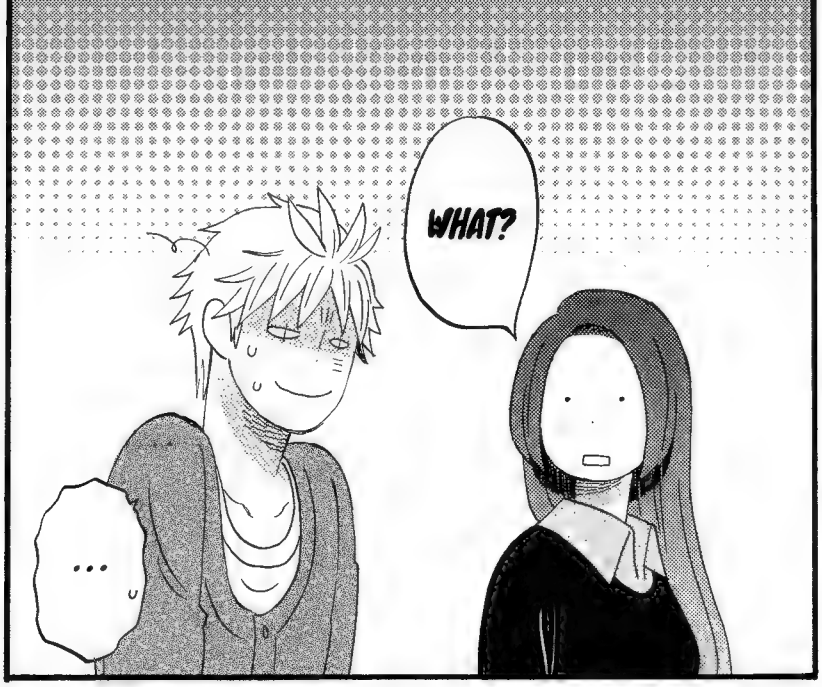

...
SO PLEASE TELL ME CLEARLY WHAT YOU WANT.

Clench
I...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE A STEP FORWARD AS A COUPLE...!

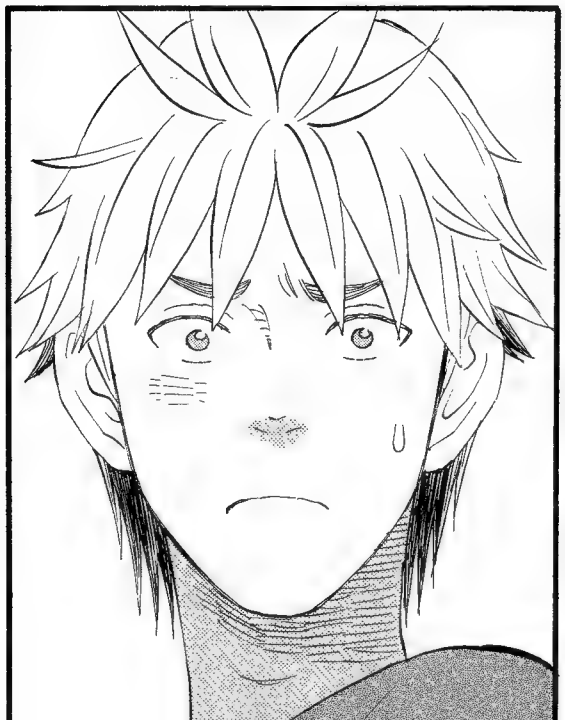

Mumble
I WANT TO SNUGGLE WITH YOU...

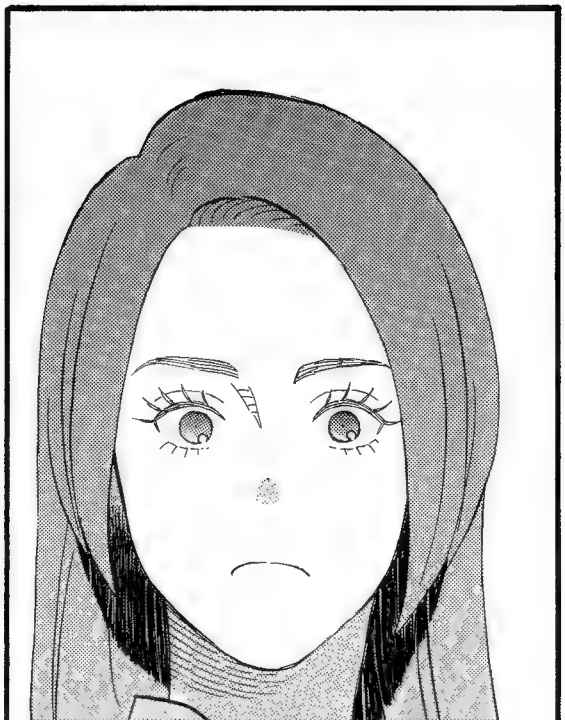



Uhh...
I SAID THAT...

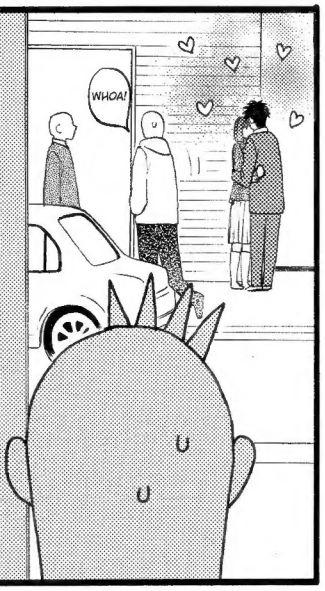

WHAT?
...

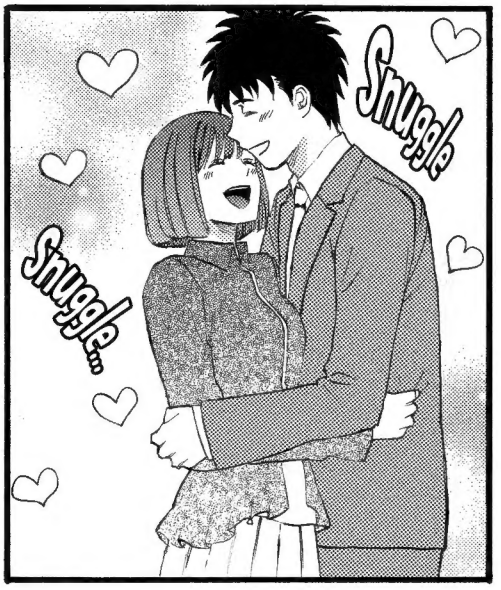
I WANT TO SNUGGLE WITH YOU.

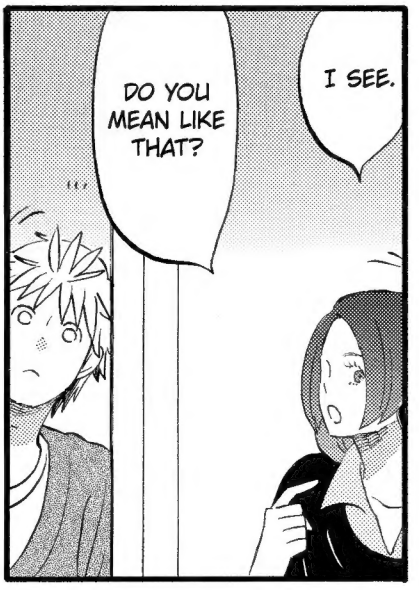


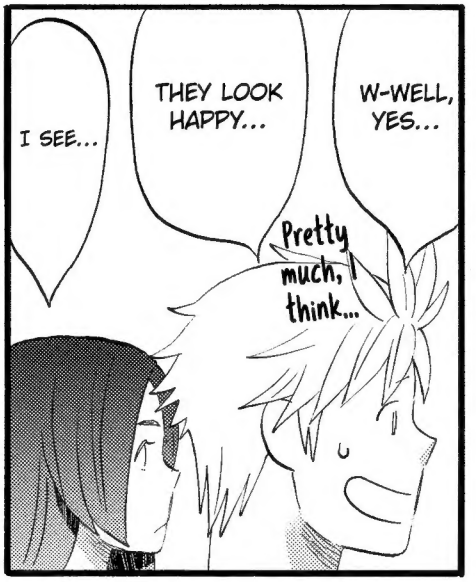


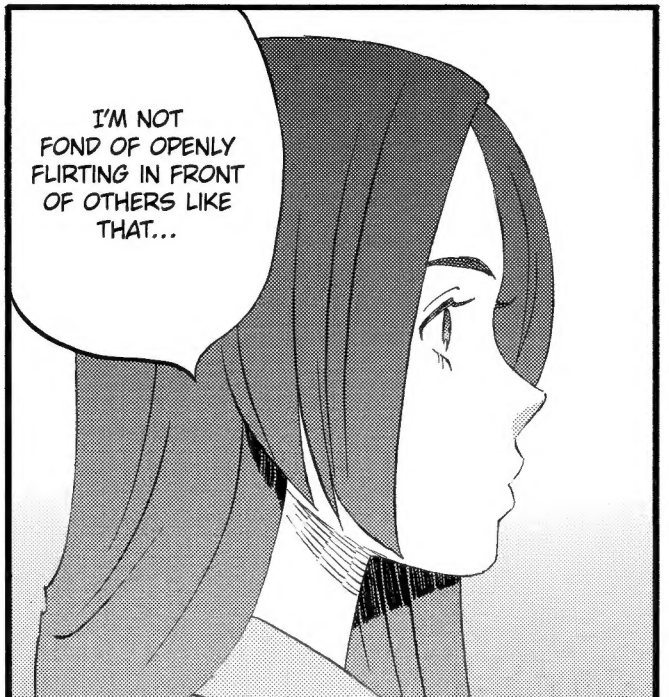
WITH ME?
YES, WITH YOU. WHO ELSE DO YOU THINK I'D LIKE TO SNUGGLE WITH?

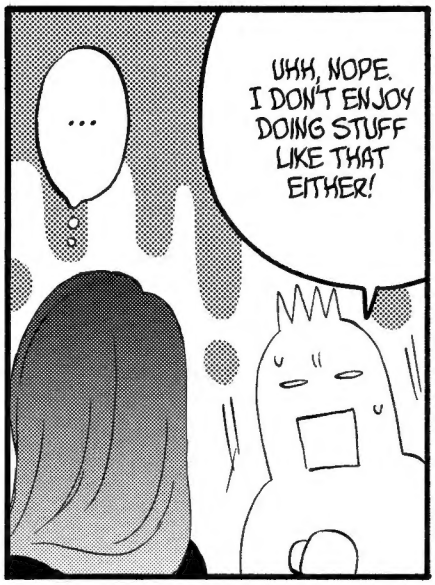

WHOA!

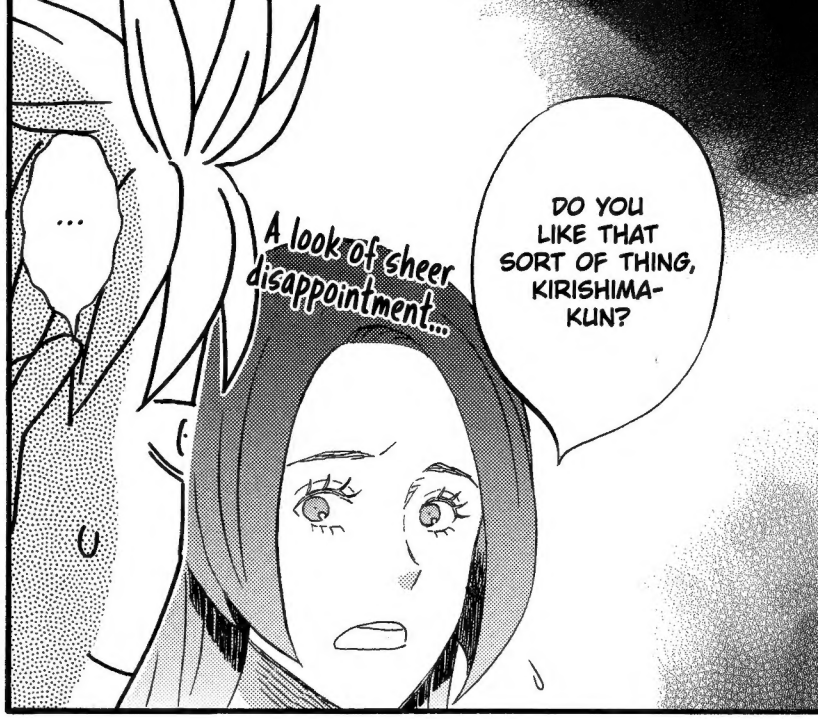

Snuggle
Snuggle...


I SEE.
DO YOU MEAN LIKE THAT?

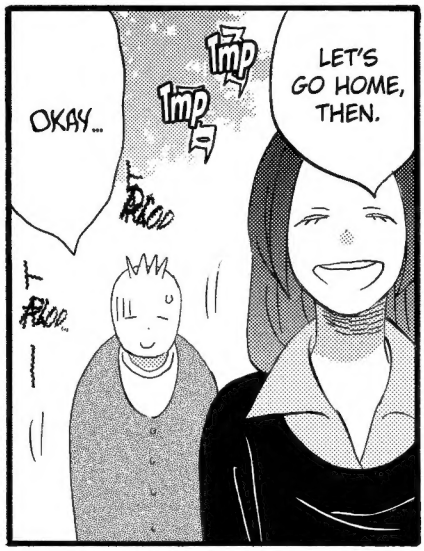

W-WELL, YES...
THEY LOOK HAPPY...
I SEE...
Pretty much, I think...


I'M NOT FOND OF OPENLY FLIRTING IN FRONT OF OTHERS LIKE THAT...

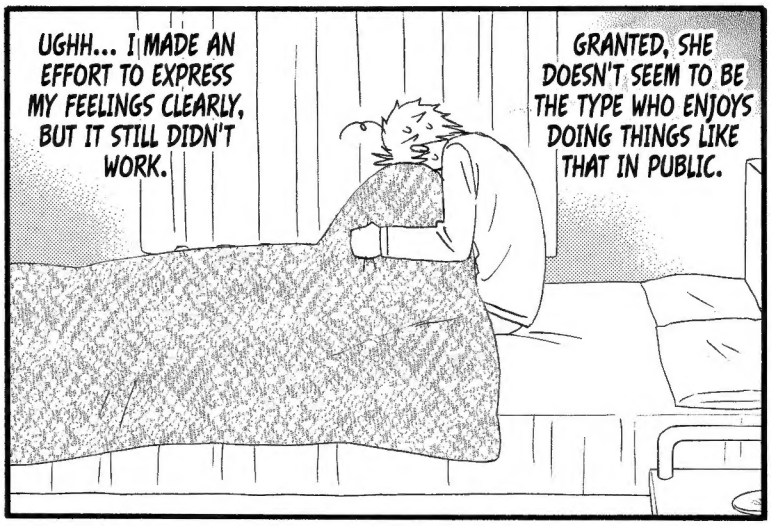

...
UHH, NOPE. I DON'T ENJOY DOING STUFF LIKE THAT EITHER!


...
A look of sheer disappointment...
DO YOU LIKE THAT SORT OF THING, KIRISHIMA-KUN?

Awooo...
ワオー
I SCREWED UP...


LET'S GO HOME, THEN.
OKAY...
Tmp
Tmp
Tmp
PLOD
PLOD

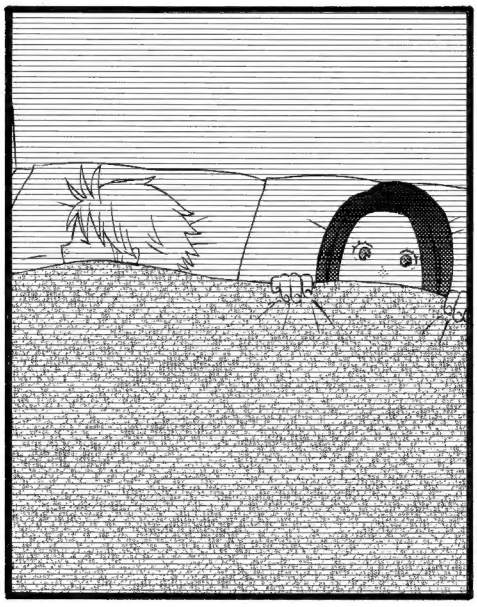
WELL, NO NEED TO FEEL DOWN. I SHOULD BE PATIENT AND LET THINGS DEVELOP AT OUR OWN PACE...
RUSTLE


UGHH... I MADE AN EFFORT TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS CLEARLY, BUT IT STILL DIDN'T WORK.
GRANTED, SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE TYPE WHO ENJOYS DOING THINGS LIKE THAT IN PUBLIC.

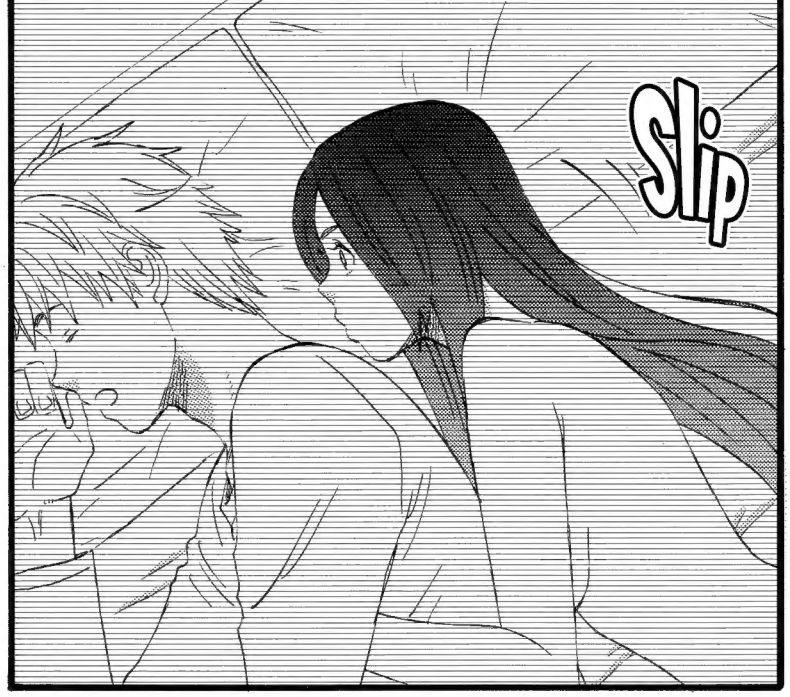
I'LL TRY AGAIN.

WE'RE NOT YOUR AVERAGE MARRIED COUPLE.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, THAT DOESN'T SUIT HER.
I SHOULD ADJUST MY EXPECTATIONS ACCORDINGLY...

Zzz...
OH? ARE YOU ASLEEP ALREADY, KIRISHIMA-KUN?



I WANTED TO GIVE SNUGGLING A TRY, THOUGH.
...


Slip

SNUGGLING ...

ALL RIGHT!

SQUEEEEZE...

GOOD NIGHT!
HNNN...